

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A two part carton comprising an open top container and a separate top closure, wherein said open top container comprises a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end walls, at least one of said side and end walls comprises a top flap hingedly connected to an uppermost edge of said at least one of said side walls, said top flap is folded downwardly with respect to said uppermost edge to extend into said open top container, said top closure includes a top panel and an engaging tab, and said top flap of said open top container engages with said engaging tab of said top closure such that said top closure is locked in a recessed position below said uppermost edge of said open top container, wherein said top closure further includes a pair of inner and outer handle panels, said inner handle panel being disposed along an inside surface of at least one of said end walls of said open top container, said outer handle panel being hingedly connected to said inner handle panel along a common upper edge of said inner and outer handle panels, said outer handle panel being disposed along an outside surface of said at least one of said end walls.

18. (Currently amended) The carton according to claim 17 wherein said engaging tab extends upwardly from said top panel and engages disposed between said top flap and said at least one of said side walls.

19. (Previously presented) The carton according to claim 17 wherein said engaging tab extends upwardly from said top panel and engages an outside surface of said top flap.

20. (Currently amended) A package comprising a carton and bottles that are held within said carton, said carton including a bottom end closure for supporting bottoms of said bottles and a top closure for closing an open top of a container to form a said carton, said top closure being formed of foldable sheet material and comprising an article-retaining arrangement including a

plurality of apertures each for receiving a portion bottle neck of an article a respective one of said bottles held within said container said carton, each said each aperture having a frangible connection extending therefrom to at least another one of said apertures to facilitate removal of said articles said bottles from thesaid carton such that in use pulling on one or more of said bottle necks removal of said articles breaks said frangible connection, said frangible connection being arranged such that structural integrity of thesaid carton is substantially maintained upon breaking of said frangible connection.

21. (Currently amended) The packagetop-closure according to claim 20 wherein said plurality of apertures are arranged in rows, each said aperture of a row having a frangible connection extending to at least one of said apertures of the same row.

22. (Currently amended) The packagetop-closure according to claim 20 wherein said plurality of apertures are arranged in rows, each said aperture of a row having a frangible connection extending to at least one of said apertures of a different row.

23. (Currently amended) The packagetop-closure according to claim 21 wherein each said aperture at an end of a row is connected to an edge of said top closure by a further frangible connection.

24. (Currently amended) The packagetop-closure according to claim 22 wherein each said aperture at an end of a row is connected to an edge of said top closure by a further frangible connection.

25. (Currently amended) The packagetop-closure according to claim 20 wherein a frangible connection between two of said apertures intersects a frangible connection between two other ones of said apertures, each of said frangible connections being a breakable line.

26. (Currently amended) The packagetop-closure according to claim 20 wherein said

frangible connection is an arrangement such that upon breaking of said frangible connection, no material is removed from said top closure.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A two-part blank for forming a carton, comprising a first part for forming an open top container and a second part for forming a top closure, said open top container comprises a pair of opposed side walls and a pair of opposed end walls, at least one of said side-and-end walls comprising a top flap hingedly connected an uppermost edge of said at least one side wall, said top flap is folded downwardly with respect to said uppermost edge to extend into said container when the carton is erected, said top closure including a top panel and engaging tab, and said top flap engages with said engaging tab, when the carton is erected, such that said top closure is locked in recessed position below said uppermost edge of said at least one side wall, wherein said top closure further includes a pair of inner and outer handle panels, said inner handle panel being disposed, when the carton is erected, along an inside surface of at least one of said end walls of said open top container, said outer handle panel is hingedly connected to said inner handle panel along a common upper edge of said inner and outer handle panels, said outer handle panel being disposed, when the carton is erected, along an outside surface of said at least one of said end walls.

29. (New) The carton according to claim 17 wherein said inner and outer handle panels provide a multi-ply handle structure.

30. (New) The carton according to claim 29 wherein said handle structure includes a ply that is provided by said at least one of said end walls such that said handle structure includes at least three plies.

31. (New) The carton according to claim 30 wherein said inner and outer handle panels and said at least one of said end walls are provided with handle apertures struck therefrom respectively.

32. (New) The blank according to claim 28 wherein said inner and outer handle panels and said at least one of said end walls are provided with handle apertures struck therefrom respectively.